Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target. Bank have been urged to draw up special credit plans with a view to achieving a distinct and marked improvement in the flow of credit to agriculture. Banks have also been advised to identify the areas and the activities which they could conveniently concentrate upon and draw up their action plan accordingly. For timely and adequate credit for agriculture production, farmers satisfying certain criteria are extended flexible line of credit in the form of cash credit facility to meet their Composits credit requirements. The facility is available to farmers having irrigation facility and also to those who do not have such facility but who in addition to cultivation of crops undertake allied activities like dairy, poultry, etc. and/or other non-farm activities and who have satisfactory track record in the conduct of their bank/ borrowed accounts. RBI has also asked commercial banks to finance high-tech activities like aquaculture, floriculture, tissue-culture bio-technology etc.

Credit flow to SSIs by Banks

5297. **SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected one hundred dedicated branches of nationalised banks for better credit flow to the small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such banks branches are in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) what procedure is likely to be followed by these bank branches in providing credit flow to small industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) In his Budget Speech for 1995-96, Finance Minister had, inter alia, mentioned that the public sector banks would ensure that 100 specialised small scale industries (SSI) branches are operational before the end of 1995-96 in 85 identified districts, each with more than 2000 registered SSI units. RBI has asked banks to give their proposals in this regard.

(c) RBI has reported that as at the end of October, 1994, there were 25 specialised SSI branches of the public sector banks in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Specialised SSI branches would be manned by staff experienced to deal with SSI loan applications and there will be predominance of SSI business at these branches.

Bridge Loan by IDBI to Companies

5298. **SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI had been at a loss in choice of companies in sanctioning bridge loans against public issue;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to review linkage of IDBI with various firms who got bridge loans;

(c) whether such bridge loans were unethical to investors; and

(d) if so, the action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it had not been lax in choice of companies in sanctioning bridge loans against public issues.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) IDBI has reported that bridge loans sanctioned by it against public issues were not unethical to the investors as these loans were given as a stopgap arrangement for the purpose of timely